



ABCT 2022

November 17–20 | New York City

Emergency & Disaster Preparedness and Response: Using Cognitive and Behavioral Science to Make an Impact

56th Annual Convention Health and Safety Protocols

Due to an ever-changing environment, this information will be updated on a regular basis.

Last updated: July 28, 2022

We will implement the following guidelines for the 2022 ABCT Convention in New York City:

ABCT's priority is the health and safety of our event participants, vendor partners, and exhibitors. Our goal is to hold a safe event, recognizing it is not possible to remove all risks, in particular concerning COVID-19. ABCT will put required measures in place to provide a safe environment for its meeting attendees. Policies for each meeting will be set according to CDC guidance, federal, state, and local regulations applicable at the time of the event, and what ABCT deems necessary to manage the risk for its event attendees. ABCT may change, update, or add to these requirements at any time as it deems prudent to best protect the health and safety of attendees and others, and attendees must comply with relevant policies and requirements as communicated by ABCT.

ABCT cannot be held liable for COVID-19 cases arising because of event attendance and currently requires of all attendees at the ABCT in-person convention:

1. A signed Liability Waiver and Acknowledgement of Personal Responsibility
2. Proof of full vaccination against COVID-19.
3. Required mask wearing.

ABCT discourages contact in the form of handshakes and hugging when greeting attendees and colleagues at the convention to minimize the spread of infection.

Vaccination Requirements for in-Person

- Proof of full vaccination will be required and verified prior to entrance.
 - Unfortunately, with the current transmission rates we will not be offering in-person access with proof of negative COVID-19 test results for non-vaccinated people (there are exceptions for limited medical reasons).
- Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination means documentation that the individual is at least two weeks past the full primary two-injection course of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or a single shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
 - Consistent with CDC guidance, ABCT also strongly encourages attendees to receive a booster dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines once eligible (i.e., six months after completion of the primary sequence of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or Novavax vaccine, or two months after a primary Johnson & Johnson injection).
- Attendees will be expected to take actions to reduce the risk of COVID transmission and to behave responsibly (including leaving the event area) in case of exposure to a COVID case or experiencing symptoms.
 - In such case, attendees should seek appropriate medical attention, including a COVID-19 test, and must immediately inform ABCT should a COVID-19 test be positive during the event or in the 3 days following the event so that we may inform other attendees.
 - Attendees agree to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 which typically include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
 - Each country has its own travel restrictions as does the U.S. Department of State. Some airlines have their own prohibitions that apply to international travel. Individuals who plan to attend the meeting from outside the U.S. should check CDC guidance, US State Department Restrictions and the list of COVID-19 country specific information regularly as well as review the website(s) of airlines(s) they are using.

What Should I Do Before I Arrive?

1. Utilize the web-based service ABCT has contracted with to upload your vaccination documentation. Proof of vaccination will not be part of the online registration process, and ABCT will not maintain any records on individual's vaccine status. Registrants will receive information via email, including safety and prevention measures before arrival.

2. Bring a mask; please wear a mask while indoors when you are not eating or drinking. All persons will be required to wear a mask, including presenters.
Failure to comply with all safety protocols and requirements as listed above or related directions from ABCT representatives on-site may result in the loss of the right to attend or participate in the annual convention, including forfeiting any registration fees paid.

What Should I Expect Onsite?

- Protect yourself by frequent hand washing/sanitizing and minimizing face touching.
- Hand sanitizer and replacement masks will be available in the conference meeting space.

Social Distancing Stickers

ABCT will make available colored stickers for attendees to affix to their name badge. These optional-use stickers are meant to indicate the wearer's level of comfort with closeness/proximity to others during the course of the meeting.

Green: Open to up close (i.e. less than 6 feet) masked conversations

Yellow: Open to masked conversations that respect a six-foot separation

Red: Please don't approach

- COVID-19 Testing

Proof of a negative COVID-19 test is NOT required for entry to the in-person conference. If you are feeling ill, you should take a COVID test available at the local pharmacy.

- At this link, you can see the Marriott Marquis health & safety protocols: Marriott Marquis Health & Safety Guidelines

- Click on this link for New York City COVID Information and Resources

Liability Waiver

- I understand that travel and gathering involves risk of sickness, including sickness from COVID-19. I (and on behalf of my guest(s)) waive and release ABCT and its exhibitors and sponsors, vendor partners, and their employees and agents, from and against claims, liabilities and expenses arising from injury, sickness, or death from contraction or spread of COVID-19 or other communicable disease due to travel to or attendance at the ABCT Annual Convention held at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel from November 17–20, 2022.
- I will take necessary precautions while at the event including, but not limited to, engaging in appropriate social distancing, wearing a mask in public areas when not consuming food or beverage, minimizing face touching, frequently washing hands and avoiding risky environments such as overcrowded bars or restaurants. I agree to not attend the ABCT Convention if I feel ill or had recent exposure to a COVID-19 case.
- This waiver and release is binding on me and my heirs and successors.

Exemptions from the Vaccination Requirement

ABCT will follow CDC guidelines for approved exceptions to the vaccination requirement. Only those individuals who can provide documentation that they fall into either the "red" OR "yellow" sections listed here will be considered exempt from the vaccination requirement.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#appendix-e>

To qualify for the exemption, you must:

1. Provide a letter to ABCT from a licensed Medical Doctor (MD) (other medical professionals would not be appropriate) verifying that the individual has had an allergic reaction to a COVID shot or has a known allergy to a component in the COVID vaccines available to them.
2. Also provide verification of a COVID test, taken within 72 hours prior to your first attendance to the ABCT Convention in New York City. (Example, if your first day of attendance will be November 18, 2022, and you fly to New York on November 17, you may get your test done as early as November 15. If you fly to New York on November 16, you may get your test on November 16 or November 15.) "At home" test results are not a permissible alternative.
 - Negative test results must be printed and come from a laboratory or test provider:
 - o For PCR tests, within 2 days of attendance
 - o For rapid antigen tests, within 1 day of attendance
 - o For ID Now, a rapid molecular test, within 3 days of attendance
3. And acceptable proof of a negative test includes the following:
 - A printed document from a test provider or laboratory
 - An electronic test result displayed on a phone or other device from the test provider or laboratory – the information should include the person's name, type of test performed, and negative test result